United Nations A/65/139

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 July 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Item 100 (e) of the provisional agenda*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean during the period from July 2009 to June 2010.

During the reporting period, at the request of Member States, the Centre focused its activities on providing assistance in addressing one of the major threats to public security and development in the region: illicit firearms trafficking. The Centre succeeded at carving out a niche for itself as a key provider of targeted capacity-building initiatives aimed at bolstering the efforts of the law enforcement community to combat illicit firearms trafficking.

As part of its integrated approach and its subregional assistance packages, the Centre also delivers technical assistance in stockpile management and legal and policy assistance to national authorities responsible for firearms control. Additionally, through its outreach and advocacy activities, the Centre continues to provide substantive support to Member States in their implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.

* A/65/150.

10-45475 (E) 030810

Please recycle

During the reporting period, the Centre received funding for two staff members and for basic operational costs from the regular budget. While that important contribution helped to boost and stabilize its operations, the Centre continues to rely solely on extrabudgetary funds in order to implement programme activities requested by Member States. The requisite political and financial support of donors remains essential to the Centre's operation and activities. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to those Member States and other partners that have supported the Centre, its operation and its programmes with financial and in-kind contributions.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Functioning and mandate	3
III.	Main areas of activity	3
	A. Public Security	4
	1. Regional context	4
	2. National and cross-border law enforcement coordination	4
	3. Multisectoral approaches to combating illicit firearms trafficking	6
	4. National laws and global and regional instruments	7
	5. Synergies with subregional organizations	7
	6. Action plans to address border control	7
	7. Weapons destruction and stockpile management in the Caribbean	7
	8. Partnerships in innovative research	8
	B. Advocacy and outreach	10
	1. 2001 Programme of Action on Small Arms	10
	2. Regional confidence-building through transparency measures	10
	3. Weapons of mass destruction (Security Council resolution 1540 (2004))	11
	4. Disarmament and non-proliferation education	11
IV.	Staffing, financing and administration	12
	A. Finances	12
	B. Staffing and administration	13
V.	Conclusion	13
Annex		
	Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2009	14

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 64/60, the General Assembly reiterated its strong support for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of United Nations activities at the regional level to strengthen peace, disarmament, stability, security and development among its Member States and encouraged the Centre to further develop activities in all countries of the region in the important areas of peace, disarmament and development. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and covers the Centre's activities from July 2009 to June 2010. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Centre for the year 2009 is contained in the annex.

II. Functioning and mandate

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, located in Lima, was established in 1987, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/60 J. The Centre is mandated to provide, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States of the region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, and for the promotion of economic and social development.

III. Main areas of activity

4. As the sole United Nations regional entity dealing with disarmament and non-proliferation issues in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Centre assists Member States in their efforts to effectively implement their commitments under various instruments at the global, regional and subregional levels. The Centre seeks to strengthen the capacities of Member States and to provide them with technical and substantive advice and assistance with a view to the achievement of sustainable peace and security.

5. The reporting period saw a rise in the number of assistance requests from Member States and regional organizations, demonstrating the increasing confidence in the Centre's effectiveness and its recognized role in this area.

6. Within the framework of its Public Security Programme, the Centre continued to provide assistance to Member States (law enforcement officials, policymakers and lawmakers) with regard to the destruction of illicit firearms and also assisted regional organizations in their efforts to address public security challenges in a more effective way.

7. Responding to requests from Member States and other stakeholders for assistance, the Centre, through the provision of public security expertise to both States and regional organizations, was able to provide assistance related to each component of their respective public security agendas ranging from legal and policy assistance, stockpile management and border security to guidance for inter-institutional capacity-building.

8. Voluntary contributions from donors were critical in enabling the Centre to carry out these activities during the reporting period.

A. Public security

1. Regional context

9. Latin America and the Caribbean is among the regions most affected by armed violence. The illicit trafficking in firearms and their misuse pose grave challenges to public security in the region. It is estimated that between 45 million and 80 million firearms are circulating in the region.[1] Latin America, with a little over 10 per cent of the world's population, accounts for more than 40 per cent of the world's homicides committed with firearms. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Central America has become the region with the highest levels of non-political crime worldwide, with approximately 79,000 people murdered in the region over the past six years. In the Andean region, there are reportedly 216,000 surplus military small arms currently in circulation,[2] in the Caribbean, more than 70 per cent of violent deaths are attributed to firearms.[3] It is estimated that there are 2.5 million private security guards in Latin America and the Caribbean, of whom only approximately half are legally registered.[4]

10. In response to requests from Member States for assistance in combating illicit firearms trafficking, the Centre provided comprehensive subregional assistance packages focusing on capacity-building, technical assistance, outreach and advocacy aimed at improving public security.

2. National and cross-border law enforcement coordination

11. Success in improving public security lies in part with the law enforcement community in its role as the first responders and field operators responsible for enforcing controls over legal firearms transfers and for preventing illicit trafficking. The Centre considers its law enforcement capacity-building courses to be its single most important contribution to the enhancement of public security in the region. With the sole financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Centre developed the second edition of the "training-the-trainers" manual entitled "Inter-institutional training course on combating illicit firearms trafficking". In that connection, the Centre consulted with an eclectic group of experts in the areas of small arms and light weapons and public security with regard to the course's content and modality. The Centre also carried out an impact evaluation of 14 of the 45 courses already conducted in the region, shedding light on important lessons learned and best practices, including the fact that this 10-day course on small arms and light weapons (7 days of theory and 3 days of practical exercises) remains the most comprehensive in the field and fills a significant training void.

---

[1] *Small Arms Survey 2009: Shadows of War* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2009).

[2] Ibid.

[3] See Ninth United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (2003-2004), available at http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/Ninth-United-Nations-Survey-on-Crime-Trends-and-the-Operations-of-Criminal-Justice-Systems.html.

[4] Arias, Patricia, *Seguridad Privada en América Latina: el lucro y los dilemas de una regulación deficitaria* (Santiago, FLACSO-Chile, 2009).

12. As a result of the evaluation, the training manual was revised to place a greater focus on technical information regarding firearms, ammunition and explosives and innovative practical tools for marking and tracing, including a hand-held ammunition identification gauge useful to police and judicial investigators in the field. It also features a new module on stockpile management and firearms destruction as methods for both preventing diversion to illicit markets and promoting transparency, verification and control on the part of State officials. Most important, the manual mainstreams the issues of human security, human rights, gender equality, and youth and child protection within criminal interrogations and the use of force, among other issues. These modifications are aimed at reinforcing participants' performance in the practical exercise that takes place during the final three days of the course.

13. During the reporting period, 201 law enforcement officials from 11 States in the region benefited from training opportunities using this manual. The national training courses conducted in Colombia,[5] Peru[6] and Bolivia (Plurinational State of)[7] provided training to 151 law enforcement personnel from those countries, while the course conducted in Costa Rica[8] trained 50 law enforcement personnel from Central American States, Mexico and the Dominican Republic, in cooperation with the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress, a civil society organization active on this issue.

14. Since the inception of the training course in 2002, the Centre and its partners have succeeded in training more than 1,700 law enforcement personnel in urban and border areas, with some countries having incorporated the course's training methodology into their national law enforcement training curriculums.

15. The course also provides an opportunity for law enforcement officials from various countries across the region, including police, armed forces, intelligence and customs officials, public prosecutors and judicial investigators, to share individual and national experiences, best practices and lessons learned. It helps to improve inter-institutional coordination to better control the legal trade and prevent illicit trafficking in firearms. It also serves as an important vehicle for agencies represented in national firearms commissions responsible for the implementation of national action plans.

16. The Centre's activities strengthened the capacity of States in the region to train law enforcement personnel in a sustainable way and according to the needs of their respective countries.

17. Working with the UNDP Central American Programme on Small Arms Control, the Centre's public security experts served as technical advisers at the first subregional workshop held in Panama dedicated to the firearms register and

[5] National inter-institutional course on combating illicit firearms trafficking (6-17 July 2009), San Andres, Colombia.

[6] National inter-institutional course on combating illicit firearms trafficking (16-25 November 2009), Lima.

[7] National inter-institutional course on combating illicit firearms trafficking (17-28 May 2010), La Paz.

[8] Subregional inter-institutional course on combating illicit firearms trafficking (15-26 March 2010), San José.

information exchange mechanisms.[9] Building on the expertise acquired as a result of the assistance provided to Ecuador in 2008, the Centre presented best practices in terms of record-keeping, the management of national registers and how to bolster a State's capacity to meet its obligations under international firearms instruments.

18. The Centre also promoted the mainstreaming of global and regional initiatives into national agendas, programmes and policies. With a view to improving public security through crime prevention and firearms control in the Andean region — as part of the Andean region assistance package funded by the Government of Canada — the Centre organized two senior policy management seminars, in Bolivia (Plurinational State of)[10] and Colombia,[11] respectively, at which policymakers and lawmakers discussed ways and means to effectively implement global and regional firearms instruments at the national level. Detailed and interactive presentations were made at the seminars on global and regional firearms instruments, with a view to ensuring that new firearms laws currently under development in countries in the subregion incorporate all the principal obligations under relevant global and regional instruments, and that provisions set out in national legislation are harmonized with those of relevant international instruments. These global and regional instruments include the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; related instruments (United Nations Firearms Protocol); and the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials.

3. Multisectoral approaches to combating illicit firearms trafficking

19. An effective way to tackle the scourge of illicit firearms is through a multisectoral and multilevel approach. To that end, the Centre joined forces with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in organizing a four-day senior and mid-level management training course for municipal and departmental representatives held in Colombia in August 2009. Building on the Centre's experience with its inter-institutional course for the law enforcement community, the programme offered participants specific investigative techniques and tools to guide them through the entire chain-of-custody process of illicit firearms, from weapons seizures to criminal judicial proceedings.

20. The Centre, in collaboration with the Peruvian National Commission against the Manufacturing of and Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials, organized an international seminar on inter-institutional arms control initiatives and their link to public security, held in Lima on 19 August 2009, to provide for an exchange of experiences among a number of national institutions. The seminar brought together members of the national firearms commission, national and international experts and representatives

[9] Regional workshop on mechanisms and technological systems for the Exchange of Information between authorities responsible for small arms and light weapons control in Central America (6-7 April 2010), Panama City.

[10] Held on 18 May 2010 in La Paz.

[11] Held from 23 to 25 June 2010 in the Department of Antioquia, Colombia.

of civil society organizations, among others, to interact and share experiences concerning the control of firearms and their impact on public security in the region.

4. National laws and global and regional instruments

21. The Centre also assisted Member States in the region in developing legal tools necessary for the strengthening of regulations concerning firearms control. At the request of States, the Centre reviewed national laws and regulations and their compatibility with global and regional firearms instruments. Those assessments constitute the necessary basis on which lawmakers and judicial practitioners can implement global and regional firearms instruments more effectively. In taking due account of each State's unique needs and subregional specificities, the Centre, through these comparative studies, tailored its legal assistance to States in order to meet those specific needs. Updating and improving national firearms laws contributes not only to a more robust legal framework, but also to a more harmonized regional approach to addressing the threat posed by illicit firearms.

5. Synergies with subregional organizations

22. Furthermore, the Centre provided expert support to regional and subregional organizations with a view to sustaining regional and subregional efforts to address firearms-related issues.

23. To support member States of the Andean Community in their efforts to implement the Andean Plan to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (Andean Community decision 552), the Centre organized the first subregional workshop on the implementation of the Plan, held in Lima on 25 and 26 May 2010, providing substantive advice and support to Peru in steering the meeting. As a result of the workshop, an operational committee was established to provide the Andean Community with the implementing mechanism necessary to better address the scourge of illicit trafficking threatening their societies.

6. Action plans to address border control

24. Armed violence in border zones poses a particular challenge to the safeguarding of public security. Indeed, such areas often become a "no-man's land" where criminal groups involved in trafficking weapons, persons and drugs and in money-laundering are able to create a community in total disregard of the law. The Centre, in coordination with UNDP and its Central American Programme on Small Arms Control, formulated joint initiatives to assist States in addressing this issue. To that end, the project consisted of an assessment of border control gaps as well as an action plan for providing technical assistance to States of the Central American Integration System on border security issues in relation to the control of illicit firearms. However, owing to a lack of the necessary funding, the implementation of the project by the States concerned is still pending.

7. Weapons destruction and stockpile management in the Caribbean

25. Supporting weapons destruction and stockpile management is crucial to the enhancement of public security in the Caribbean region. Comprehensive stockpile management policies and procedures, combined with the periodic destruction of confiscated and surplus weapons, are essential measures to promote transparency

and reduce the diversion of firearms to criminal networks. With financial support from the Department of State of the United States of America, the Centre began to provide technical assistance to eight Caribbean States (Grenada, the Bahamas, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic and Belize) in the areas of weapons destruction and stockpile management.

26. During the reporting period, the Centre kick-started the subregional programme in three of the eight targeted Caribbean States (Grenada,[12] Jamaica,[13] and the Bahamas[14]) by undertaking assessments of States' national capacities to destroy weapons and manage stockpiles, an essential step towards the formulation of their respective national action plans. Such plans are aimed at reducing the amount of weapons and ammunition in circulation, improving the security and management of national stockpile facilities and strengthening the capacities of the security sector (police and armed forces) and relevant national authorities in those areas.

27. In that connection, the Centre organized the first subregional awareness-raising workshop on best practices in firearms destruction and stockpile management held in Kingston on 28 and 29 May 2010. At the workshop, the Centre presented international standards for the securing and disposal of weapons and, more important, a cost/benefit analysis, followed by frank and in-depth discussions on specific needs and current practices of States. As a result, the issue of stockpile management has now been placed on the national agendas of these Caribbean States. Much can be done in the future to improve the safety and security of firearms stockpiles through improved management in the subregion, and the Centre will continue its provision of technical and substantive assistance regarding these issues.

8. Partnerships in innovative research

28. The Centre launched new research and advocacy tools concerning issues related to gun violence in schools, gang violence and illicit firearms, and private security in relation to firearms, as well as the regional implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

29. In undertaking the aforementioned research and advocacy activities, the Centre partnered with State ministries of education, the Organization of American States (OAS), UNDP, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. The activities are aimed at contributing to the development of a more comprehensive approach to addressing illicit firearms on the part of States in the region, and to the development of regional policies and initiatives in that regard. They will also serve as important references concerning the development of the Centre's future assistance programmes to be provided to States upon request.

30. In December 2009, the Centre organized the first regional survey of policies to prevent firearms proliferation and armed violence in educational centres in Latin America and the Caribbean, which targeted educators and parents in particular because of the crucial role they can play in reducing and preventing armed violence

[12] Firearms stockpile management assessment mission (24-28 May 2010), Saint George's.
[13] Firearms stockpile management assessment mission (31 May-4 June 2010), Kingston.
[14] Firearms stockpile management assessment mission (21-25 June 2010), Nassau.

in schools. The purpose of the initiative is to raise awareness about legal, policy and programme responses aimed at reducing and preventing armed violence in schools and increasing dialogue among educators, student leaders, Governments, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders on issues of human security and child, adolescent and youth development.

31. The phenomenon of gangs represents an ongoing challenge to States in combating armed violence, because the activities of gangs influence the demand for and supply and distribution of illicit firearms at both the national and regional levels. In response to a request by the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security, the Centre shared its expertise in the area of gang-violence prevention and contributed to the formulation by the relevant working group of the Committee, of a Regional Strategy to Promote Inter-American Cooperation in Dealing with Criminal Gangs. The Centre looks forward to contributing further to the efforts of the working group and to partnering with OAS in addressing gang violence from a regionally strategic perspective.

32. The Centre also conducted in-depth research into the potential risks posed to society as a result of the increased emergence of private security companies and the consequent surge in the demand for firearms, and its implications for national policies and concerned Government institutions. Interest in this topic is on the rise, as demonstrated by the increased number of regional meetings on the subject, as well as the number of requests for expert presentations to be delivered by the Centre. Most notably, among these are requests made by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung during the second meeting of the Organized Crime Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Costa Rica in September 2009; by the Central American Programme on Small Arms Control during an inter-parliamentary conference;[15] and by United Nations agencies focusing on raising the awareness of governmental entities and the private security sector regarding the importance of sound stockpile management practices and standards with regard to public holdings to prevent illicit trafficking.

33. To commemorate the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, a landmark Council resolution specifically addressing the impact of war on women, as well as women's contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace, the Centre, together with INSTRAW, issued a briefing package on the implementation of the resolution in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as guidelines for the formulation and execution of a national action plan to facilitate such implementation. The information also highlighted the specific needs of women and the obligation of States to increase their participation at both the policy and operational levels in addressing armed violence in Latin America and the Caribbean.

34. Additional gender-related joint initiatives will be carried out by the Centre, INSTRAW and the International Action Network on Small Arms with a view to promoting the formulation of national action plans for the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

[15] "Parliamentary action on small arms — policies, legislation and regional approaches" (22 23 October 2009), Managua.

B. Advocacy and outreach

35. At the request of Member States, the Centre undertook disarmament and non-proliferation advocacy and outreach activities with a view to creating a sustainable disarmament culture throughout the region and across sectors.

1. 2001 Programme of Action on Small Arms

36. In March 2010 in Lima Member States came together to discuss progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. This regional platform, the third in a series of regional meetings led by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, was aimed at preparing States, by means of a broad-based consultation process, for the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms and demonstrating to the global community at the Meeting advances and progress made at the national, subregional and regional levels.

37. Four subregion-specific working groups, focusing on such issues as border control, international cooperation, marking and tracing, institutionalization, and the nexus between the illicit trafficking in firearms and other illicit transnational activities, provided Member States with the opportunity to actively deliberate on progress made and challenges faced in implementing the Programme of Action in preparation for the Fourth Biennial Meeting, held in June in New York.

38. A similar forum was provided to civil society organizations by the Centre and the Central American Programme on Small Arms Control, in collaboration with the International Action Network on Small Arms and the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation, during a regional meeting held in April 2010, at which civil society organizations gathered to actively deliberate on firearms-related issues prior to the convening of the Fourth Biennial Meeting.[16]

39. To support the implementation of the Programme of Action, the Centre continued to provide technical expertise in developing and maintaining the United Nations Programme of Action Implementation Support System, an easy-to-access, web-based system containing an essential set of virtual tools for States, international and regional organizations, and civil society to use in their implementation of the Programme of Action. The Implementation Support System includes an international assistance section and provides information concerning indications of needs and requests for international assistance from Member States, relevant data on Programme of Action-related meetings and documents, and project proposals for funding consideration.

2. Regional confidence-building through transparency measures

40. As a follow-up to the strong appeal made by the 2009 Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms for the continuation of regional initiatives on transparency in armaments, the Centre participated in the holding of a two-day regional workshop of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, to have been the first of its kind to be held in Latin America and the Caribbean since 2002. International transparency regarding arms transfers and military expenditures as a means to increase mutual confidence was the focus of the regional workshop,

[16] Latin American civil society meeting on the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States and preparatory committees for an arms trade treaty (26-27 April 2010), Mexico City.

which was held on 3 and 4 March 2010 in Lima. The workshop provided Latin American and Caribbean States with a forum in which to share their views and experiences concerning their reporting to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures. It was also aimed at assisting States of the region in improving the quality, accuracy, consistency and timeliness of their reports. Experts from the Office provided technical advice about topics related to the nature, structure and procedures of both instruments with a view to promoting the increased submission of annual national reports by States of the region.

41. In addition to building the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean States to draft annual reports on the United Nations Register, the Centre provided technical support for a project aimed at an overhaul of the Register database of conventional arms. In order to make the database more user-friendly, a modernized online web-based tool was created to increase the reporting rate, stimulate and promote timely report submission and allow for the direct transfer of data from State submissions into the revamped database. It is envisaged that information provided electronically by States will result in a substantially higher level of efficiency, security and accuracy in reporting and will further strengthen the Register in fulfilling its role as a confidence-building measure and a reliable source of authoritative information regarding the international trade in conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons.

3. Weapons of mass destruction (Security Council resolution 1540 (2004))

42. At the request of Member States, the Centre presented its experience and lessons learned in the fields of capacity-building and technical assistance during a meeting for Central American States dedicated to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).[17]

4. Disarmament and non-proliferation education

43. During the reporting period, several States in the region requested specific assistance from the Centre in order to expand the capacity and knowledge of their governmental representatives concerning disarmament instruments, practical measures and mechanisms, and thus strengthen their capacity to effectively address new challenges in the areas of peace, disarmament and non-proliferation.

44. The Centre developed a disarmament advocacy course, designed to assist both students of diplomatic academies and diplomats working in the area of disarmament in gaining in-depth knowledge about the various issues related to disarmament and security and broadening their understanding of disarmament-related instruments. The Centre, in cooperation with OAS, is seeking funding for this initiative.

45. The Centre also worked with OAS in creating a region-specific inter-American virtual clearing house dedicated to exploring disarmament and non-proliferation education proposals and frameworks for implementation. This initiative builds on the Centre's disarmament advocacy course and is aimed at promoting constructive regional/subregional dialogues and confidence-building and cooperative disarmament measures, contributing to a culture of peace in the region.

---

[17] Held from 8 to 10 September 2009 in San José.

IV. Staffing, financing and administration

A. Finances

46. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/60 J, the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions made by Member States and interested organizations for its core and programmatic activities. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions to the Centre's Trust Fund were received in the amount of $1,780,183.56.[18] The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Canada, Colombia, Guyana, Panama, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Turkey and the United States of America for their generous financial contributions to the Centre and for their valuable support for its activities. Information about the status of the Trust Fund for 2009 is contained in the annex to the present report.

47. Despite this important support, the Centre's programmatic activities rely solely on voluntary contribution. Therefore, resource mobilization remained a key challenge throughout the reporting period, and proactive efforts by the Centre in that regard remained at the forefront of its workplan. In addition, the paucity of financial resources was exacerbated by an increase in the cost of living in Lima, the Centre's host city. The Secretary-General calls upon the Government of Peru to continue to provide the necessary financial and overall support to the Centre in order to offset the rise in its operating costs.

48. The Centre's concerted efforts led to the forging of new partnerships with the United States of America and Canada. Those partnerships will enable the Centre to provide comprehensive public security assistance in the Caribbean and Andean regions.

49. In 2009/10, the Centre continued to implement its three-year project on enhancing public security, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. This ongoing funding, the most significant financial contribution to both the Centre's Public Security Programme and its core functioning, was pivotal to the successful implementation of the Programme and to the maintenance of the Centre's core staff.

50. In 2009, the Government of Spain pledged significant resources in support of the Centre's Public Security Programme, particularly in the area of armed-violence prevention, as well as the core functioning of the Centre.

51. The Secretary-General wishes to thank the Governments of Sweden and Spain for their consistent financial contributions to the Centre in support of its public security projects, and its core staff.

52. In addition, the Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation to the Governments of Canada and the United States of America for their financial support for the Centre's regional assistance packages for the Andean and Caribbean regions, respectively.

53. The Centre also benefited from its joint undertakings with key partner organizations, including the Central American Programme on Small Arms Control,

[18] Canada ($201,498.60), Colombia ($2,500.00), Guyana ($1,000.00), Panama ($1,000.00), Spain ($351,800.00), Sweden ($807,024.96), Turkey ($10,000.00), United States of America ($405,360.00).

OAS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UNDP. Those organizations assisted the Centre with in-kind contributions as well as cost-sharing arrangements in the implementation of activities related to peace, disarmament and development.

54. If the Centre is to meet the demands for assistance articulated by Member States, an increase in voluntary contributions will be necessary. The current resources are insufficient to enable the Centre to respond adequately to the influx of requests received.

B. Staffing and administration

55. In order to be able to fully and effectively carry out its mandate, the Regional Centre needs to rely on a stable core team of skilled professional and support staff. Thanks to the support provided by Member States, the regular budget for the biennium 2010-2011 includes provisions for the recruitment of one Professional staff member and one local General Service staff member. The recruitment for the two posts was under way at the time of reporting.

56. Nonetheless, the Centre continues to rely solely on voluntary financial contributions in order to develop and carry out disarmament- and non-proliferation-related programmes in the region; thus, financial contributions are also essential for the hiring of project staff and the implementation of concrete projects.

V. Conclusion

57. During the reporting period, the Centre carried out more than 20 substantive activities benefiting more than 530 representatives of Governments and civil society in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, and received 26 new requests from Member States for assistance.

58. The Centre provided expert assistance to Member States through its unique and integrated approach to combating illicit firearms trafficking throughout the region. Activities included law enforcement capacity-building, technical assistance in the areas of stockpile management and border security, and legal and policy support with a view to promoting and facilitating the implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.

59. Member States, United Nations partners and regional organizations expressed their satisfaction with the high-quality assistance provided by the Centre, as reflected in the increase in the Centre's expertise and its increased utilization in collaborative efforts with Member States, regional organizations and United Nations agencies. In those efforts, it provided advice, assistance and leadership in many initiatives to address public security challenges posed by illicit firearms trafficking.

60. Recognizing the financial support provided to the Centre by several Governments, the Secretary-General reiterates his appeal to Member States and other partners in a position to do so to provide the Centre with the financial support necessary to ensure the continued delivery of expert disarmament assistance upon request to Latin American and Caribbean States.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2009

	(United States dollars)
Fund balance, 31 December 2008	1 095 074
Income, 1 January-31 December 2009	
Voluntary contributions	576 348
Funds received under inter-organization arrangements	0
Interest income	39 170
Other/miscellaneous income	141 257
Subtotal	**1 851 849**
Expenditures, 1 January-31 December 2009	461 777
Programme support costs	63 901
Subtotal	**525 678**
Prior-period adjustments	2
Transfers (to) from other funds, refunds to donors	21 940
Reserves and fund balance, 31 December 2009	**1 304 229**

Note: This information is based on the statement of income and expenditure for 2009. During the period, contributions totalling $576,348 were received from Colombia ($2,500), Guyana ($998), Panama ($1,000), Peru ($30,000), Sweden ($531,850) and Turkey ($10,000).

During the period from 1 January to 30 May 2010, additional contributions totalling $1,234,724 were received from Canada ($201,389), Guyana ($1,000), Spain ($351,800), Sweden ($275,175) and the United States of America ($405,360).